

O'CONNELL'S BAR ANECDOTES.

Some of the stories told by, as well as of O'Connell, that the flood of light upon the manners and customs now rapidly passing away. Those who wish to obtain a full idea of what O'Connell had to say will consult his interesting life, by Mr. O'Neill. Here, however, we may be permitted to quote one or two, for those who may never have had that opportunity. And first, one which focuses an attorney who should have stood in the dock along with his client. He was, however, a clever rascal - "The cleverest attorney that ever I heard," said O'Connell, "was one Checkley, familiarly known by the name of Checkley-head - d. Checkley was agent once at the Cork Assizes for a fellow accused of burglary and aggravated assault committed at Bantury. The noted Jerry Keller was counsel for the prisoner, against whom the charge was made out by the clearest circumstantial evidence - so clearly that it seemed quite impossible to doubt his guilt. When the case for the prosecution closed, the judge asked if there were any witnesses for the defence. "Yes, my lord," said Jerry Keller, "I have three briefed to me." "Call them," said the judge. "Checkley immediately bustled out of court, and returned in a few minutes, in a very respectable farmer-like man with a fine coat and gilt buttons, scratch wig, curly topknots and gaiters." "This is a witness to character, my lord," said Checkley. "Jerry Keller (the counsel) forthwith began to examine the witness. "After asking his name and residence. "You know the prisoner in the dock," said Keller. "Yes, your honor, ever since he was a gossoon." "And what is his general character?" "Ogh! the devil a worse." "Why, what sort of a witness is this you've brought?" cried Keller, passionately flinging down his brief, and looking furiously at Checkley; "he has ruined us!" "He may prove an alibi, however," returned Checkley. "Examine him to alibi as instructed in your brief." "Keller accordingly resumed his examination. "Where was the prisoner on the 10th instant?" said he. "He was near Castlemartyr," answered the witness. "Are you sure of that?" "Quite sure, counsellor." "How do you know with such certainty?" "Because upon that very night I was returning from the fair, and when I got near my own house I saw the prisoner a little way on before me - I'd swear to him anywhere. He was dodging about, and I knew it could be for no good end. So I stepped into the field and turned off my horse to grass; and while I was watching the lad from behind the ditch, I saw him pop across the wall into my garden and steal a lot of parsnips and carrots, and what I thought a great deal worse of, he stole a brand new English spoke I had got from my landlord, Lord Shannon. So I cut away after him; but as I was tired from my day's labor, and he being fresh and nimble, I was not able to catch him. But next day my spade was seen, surely, in his house; and that of the same rogue in the dock. I wish I had a hoist of him!" "It is quite evident," said the judge, "that we must acquit the prisoner; the witness has clearly established an alibi for him. Castlemartyr is nearly sixty miles from Bantury, and he certainly is anything but a partizan of his. Pray friend, addressing the witness, will you swear information against the prisoner for his robbery of your property?" "Troth I will, my lord," with all the pleasure in life, if your lordship thinks I can get any satisfaction out of him. I'm told I can for the spade, but not for the carrots and parsnips." "Go to the crown office and swear information," said the judge. "The prisoner was of course discharged, the alibi having been clearly established. In an hour's time some inquiry was made as to whether Checkley's rural witness had sworn information in the crown office. That gentleman was not to be heard of; the prisoner also had vanished immediately on being discharged, and of course, resumed his malpractice forthwith. It needs hardly be told that Lord Shannon's *sal-donat* tenant, dealt a little in fiction, and that the story of his farm from that nobleman, and of the spade and the vegetables, was a pleasant device of Mr. Checkley's. I told this story to a *coeteris* of English barristers, with whom I dined; and it was most amusing to witness their astonishment at Mr. Checkley's unprincipled ingenuity. Stephen Rice declared he would walk fifty miles to see Checkley. Perhaps it was the existence of such a fellow as Checkley that gave a barrister named Parsons that horror for attorneys which O'Connell relates so humorously. "There was a barrister of the name of Parsons at the bar in my earlier practices," said O'Connell, "who had a good deal of humor. Parsons hated the whole tribe of attorneys; perhaps they had not treated him well - but his prejudice against them was eternally presenting itself. One day, in the hall of the Four Courts, an attorney came up to him to beg a subscription toward burying a brother attorney who had died in distressed circumstances. Parsons took out a pound note. "Oh! Mr. Parsons," said the applicant, "I do not want so much; I only ask a shilling from each contributor." "Oh, take it - take it," replied Parsons; "I would most willingly subscribe my money to you to put an attorney under ground." "But really, Mr. Parsons, I have limited myself to a shilling from each person." "For pity sake, my good sir, take the pound - and bury the body of that man!" But of all the stories that he told, there is not perhaps another so comically exquisite as that which relates a dull mistake of a judge, who was not posted in the popular idiom. O'Connell says: "One of the most curious things I remember in my bar experience, is Judge Foster's charging for the acquittal of a homicide named Denis Halligan, who was tried with four others, at the Limerick assizes many years ago. Foster totally mistook the evidence of the principal witness for the prosecution. The offence charged was aggravated manslaughter, committed on some poor wretch whose name I forget. The first four prisoners were shown to be criminally abetting; but the fifth, Denis Halligan, was proved to have inflicted the fatal blow. The evidence of the principal witness against him, was given in these words: "I saw Denis Halligan, my lord (he that's in the dock there) take a *cooney* (a whip) at the poor soul that's killed, and gave him a *chawl-poon* (a stick) and lay him down as quiet as a child." "The judge charged against the first four prisoners and sentenced them to seven years imprisonment each; then proceeding to the fifth, the rascal who really committed the homicide, he addressed him thus: "Denis Halligan, I have purposely reserved the consideration of your case for the last. Your crime, as being a participator in the affray, is doubtless of a grievous nature; yet I cannot avoid taking into consideration the mitigating circumstances that attend it. By the evidence of the witness it clearly appears that you were the only one of the party who showed any mercy to the unfortunate deceased. You took him to a vacant seat, and you wiped him with a napkin, and (to use the affecting and poetic language of the witness) you laid him down with the gentleness one shows to a little child. In con-

sideration of these circumstances, which considerably mitigates your offence, the only imprisonment I shall inflict on you is an imprisonment of three weeks' duration." "So Denis Halligan got off by Foster's mistaking a *cooney* for a vacant seat, and a *chawl-poon* for a whip napkin." His reminiscences of the witty men who flourished in his early days are interesting - he considered Curran as perhaps the wittiest, but others were bright of intellect. "Holmes," said he, "has a great share of very clever sarcasm. \* \* \* Plunket had great wit; he was a creature of exquisite genius. Nothing could be happier than his hit in reply to Lord Redesdale about the *lites*. In a speech before Redesdale, Plunket had occasion to use the phrase *lites* very frequently, as designating fraudulent bills and promissory notes. Lord Redesdale, to whom the phrase was quite new, at length interrupted Mr. saying: "I don't understand your meaning, Mr. Plunket. In England *lites* are paper playthings used by boys; in Ireland they seem to mean some species of monetary transaction." "There is another difference, my lord," said Plunket. "In England the wind raises the *lites*; in Ireland, the *lites* raise the wind." "Curran was once defending an attorney's bill of costs before Lord Clare. "Is a sagacious imposition; how can you defend this item, Mr. Curran?" "By writing immemorial letters, £100." "Why, my lord," said Curran, "nothing can be more reasonable. It is not a penny a letter." "And Curran's reply to Judge Robinson is exquisite in its way. "I'll commit you, sir," said the judge. "I hope you'll never commit a worse thing, my lord," retorted Curran. "O'Connell," had humor. When the erier wanted to expel the dwarf O'Leary, who was about three feet four inches high, from the jury box in Tralee, Crocker said: "Let him stay where he is - *he minimis non curat*." Let him stay where he is - *he minimis non curat*." Let him stay where he is - *he minimis non curat*." "And when Tom Gould got retainers from both sides: "Keep them both," said Crocker; "you may conscientiously do so. You can be counsel for one side, and of use to the other." Speaking of Judge Daly while he was yet alive, O'Connell said: "No man would take more pains to serve a friend, but as a judge they could scarcely have placed a less efficient man upon the bench. \* \* \* He once said to me at the Cork assizes: "Mr. O'Connell, I must not allow you to make a speech; the fact is, I can always of opinion with the last speaker, and therefore I will not let you say a word." "My lord," said I, "that is precisely the reason why I'll let nobody have the last word but myself if I can help it." "I had the last word, and Daly charged in favor of my client. Daly was made judge in 1798. He had been chairman of Kilmahina, with a salary of £1,200 a year. When he got on the Bench, Bully Egan got the chairmanship." "Was Bully Egan a good lawyer?" asked Mr. Daunt. "He was Bully a successful one; his bullying helped him through. He was a desperate duellist. One of his duels was fought with Mr. O'Reilly, who fired before the word was given; the shot did not take effect." "Well, at any rate, my honor is safe," said O'Reilly. "Is it so?" said Egan - "I'll take a slap at your honor for all that." "And Egan deliberately held his pistol pointed for full five minutes at O'Reilly, whom he kept for that period in the agonies of mortal suspense." "Did he kill him?" "Not he," replied O'Connell; "he couldn't hit a haystack. If courage applied to duelling, he certainly possessed it. But in everything else he was the most timid man alive."

THE KYBER PASS.

The Kyber Pass is mainly known as the formidable entrance to Afghanistan. It is still thought of with a shudder, from the recollection of Elphinstone's retreat to Gandanuck. And, as the *Oberker* remarks, there is something rather humiliating in thinking that, although we have practically conquered the Peshawar end of the pass since 1849, a British officer is to this day powerless to thread it except at the head of an army, or by bribing the lawless ruffians who are perched along its crags like birds of prey. It is a fact, however, and one that is well noted in the bazaars of the Punjab, that the Soobdadar of the great Maharajah cannot send a *Valdeed*, even at the head of five or six hundred horsemen, to the *Gabelle* Ameer without making a "boudabus" or bargain with the Kyberer "bud-mashes," or backgamons. Thirteen miles from the cantonment of Peshawar stands the old fort of Junmool, our frontier post towards the Kyber. Two miles further we cross the border line and enter the defile, but we do it at the peril of our lives without a safe conduct from the head man of the neighboring district and without an escort of his truculent clansmen. The entrance to the gorge is between two cliffs about twelve hundred feet in height, and for the first few miles there is a good road, constructed by our sappers in 1841, and flanked on each side by enormous-looking rocks, piled in interminable confusion, without a sign of vegetation, and as brown and forbidding-looking as the cut-throats that clamor over them. These wretches, clad in posterns swarming with vermin, of the true Kyberer breed, with greasy puggarees round their matted locks, and a complete arsenal of murderous weapons disposed about their persons, may be seen any day about the fort of Junmool, when not otherwise engaged in "chappas" and "shub-khous" against each other. Their sole formula of existence is "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." If one of them is killed, his family or friends carry on a vendetta which would appeal even a Corsican. They acknowledge no law except that of their head man, only as long as it suits them, and even then they are as independent of Shere Ali as they are of the Kaiser's Hind. We have, however, had to give them some sharp lessons in recent years by expeditions against their villages, or by establishing a blockade to starve them into surrender, that they have begun to have a wholesome dread of the British flag. Hence, they now rarely venture to make raids into the villages upon our side of the frontier, but as some compensation for this forbearance they have redoubled their forays against each other's villages. Like the Koods of the Hak-kierri Mountains, even when engaged in tilling the ground they hold the plough with one hand and a matchlock with the other, on "the constant stoop for their incessant prey," or in equally constant expectation of every rock or bush concealing an enemy. It may truly be said that from the cradle to the grave war, murder, and rapine seem to be both the business and pleasure of their lives. Such are the guardians of the Kyber, who agreed with the Commissioner of Peshawar for a handsome present to pass Sir Neville Chamberlain, his staff and escort, through their historic defile without let or hindrance, as a token of their good faith delivering some of their head men over as hostages. - *Register*.

RIPPLES OF LAUGHTER.

The universal life preserver - bread. The lap of luxury - a cat eating cream. Did you ever see a cart blanche or a wag on wheels. No one needs so much watching as he who is always watching others. No other girl's nose itches so much as that of the one who vents a diamond ring. "The Beautiful Snow" is a production of F. L. Ake. Why discuss the matter further. If beauty is a fatal gift to woman, what shall be said of whistling that is given to the boy. The Shah of Persia has ninety wives. No wonder that he lies awake and chews tobacco in bed. An Arkansas constable's pistol being stolen, he advertised that, if the thief would return it, he would give him the contents. There is no use of rising at four or five o'clock with the hope of getting an early breakfast; you cannot have your meal before it is 8. "Find out your child's speciality" is the urgent advice of a phrenologist. We have tried this and find it not so easy. Sometimes rock candy seems to be the favorite and then again there is a marked tendency to taffy. Is there a scientific man in the country who can tell, after a sock gets a hole in it, what becomes of the material that once took the place of the aperture. It is not good for any man to be alone under any circumstances, but when he falls into a ten-foot cellar and finds a hole in the ceiling, he is in a bad way. It is not good for a man to be alone under any circumstances, but when he falls into a ten-foot cellar and finds a hole in the ceiling, he is in a bad way. Young America has been always noted for its enquiring minds. One of the many budding Presidents now resident in Chicago was told the other day by his "school marm" the story of William Tell's famous shooting feat. The only comment the boy made upon the story of the patriotic parent was: "Who ate the apple afterward?" The following may be seen on a tombstone in a town near Dublin: - "Here lies the body of John Mound, who was killed by the loss of his two toothpicks sticking out of his mouth." It was how the first sight of an elephant affected Bridget Muldoon. It is now an established fact that the female mosquito only bites; the male does the sitting on the rail and growling about the hard times. Manners are more esteemed in society than virtues, though the one are artificial, like false brilliants, and the other pure, like real jewels. Good nature, like a bee, collects its honey from every herb. Ill-nature, like a spider, sucks poison from the sweetest flowers. A man went down town the other day and sat about half through for a portrait. Then he went to a picnic with his thin pants on and got a cold, which swelled his jaw so that when he went again his picture didn't fit. A Winona county farmer went on a big drunk while his neighbors sowed their wheat and had just got around to harvest a big crop that escaped the bad weather. There is no moral attached to a confounded incident like this. A man sentenced to be hung was visited by his wife, who said: "My dear would you like the children to see you executed?" "No," replied he. "That's just like you," said she, "for you never wanted the children to have any enjoyment."

THE IRISH AND SCOTCH ELEMENT IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

From MacMillan's Magazine. There are crimes done in the dark hour of strife, and amid the blaze of man's passions, that sometimes make the blood run cold as we read of them; but they are not so terrible in their red-headed vengeance as the cold malignity of a civilized law, which permits a brave and noble race to disappear by the operation of its legalized injustice. To convert the Highland glens into vast wastes, untenanted by human beings; to drive forth to distant and inhospitable shores men whose forefathers held their own among these hills despite Roman legion, Saxon archer, or Norman chivalry; men whose sons died freely for England's honour, through those wide domains their bravery had won for her - such was the work of law framed in a cruel mockery of name by the Commons of England. It might have been imagined that at a time when every recruit was worth to the State the sum of £40, some means might have been found to stay the hand of the cottage-clearers, to protect from motives of State policy, if not of patriotism, the men who were literally the life-blood of the nation. But it was not so. Had these been slaves or serfs, they would, as chattel property, have been the objects of solicitude, both on the part of their owners and of their governments; but they were free men, and therefore could be more easily destroyed. Nay, the very war in which so many of their sons were bearing part was indirectly the cause of the expulsion of the Highlanders from their homes. Sheep and oxen became of unprecedented value through the increased demand for food supplies, and the cottage beneath whose roof trees half-a-dozen soldier's sons had sprung to life had to give place to a waste wherein a Highland ox could browse in freedom. Those who imagine that such destruction of men could be repeated in our day are little acquainted with the real working of the law of landlord and tenant. It has been repeated in our own time in all save the disappearance of a soldier race; but that final disappearance was not prevented by any law framed to prevent such a catastrophe, but rather because an outraged and infuriated peasantry had, in many instances, summarily avenged the wrong which the law permitted. Thus it was, that about the year 1860, the streams of Highland soldiers, which had been gradually thinning, gave symptoms of running completely dry. Recruits for the Highland regiments could not be obtained, for the simple reason that the Highlanders had been depopulated. Six regiments, which from the date of their foundation had formed the bulk and banner, were ordered to lay aside their distinctive uniform, and henceforth became merged into the ordinary line corps. From the mainland the work of destruction passed rapidly to the Isles. These remote resting places of the Celt were quickly cleared. During the first ten years of the great war Skye had given 4,000 of her sons to the army. It is computed that 1,600 Skye men stood in the ranks at Waterloo. To-day, in Skye, as far as the eye can reach, nothing but a bare brown waste is to be seen, where still the mounds and ruined gables rise over the melancholy landscape, sole vestige of a soldier-race forever passed away. We have already stated that the 13th and 14th regiments were ordered to be disbanded, and that the soldiers were only removed in 1880. As may be supposed, however, the removal of that prohibition was not accompanied by any favour to that religion, save its barest toleration; and yet we find that in the fourteen years following not less than 100,000 Irish recruits offered for the army. Nearly forty years of peace followed Waterloo. It was a grand time for the people who held that the country was the place for the machinery and cattle, the town for machinery and men. The broad acres were made broader by levelling cottages and fences; the narrow garrets were made narrower by the conversion of farms into factory hands, and the substitution of sheep for shillings; the picturesque people, too, said the country looked better; under the new order of things, vast ranges, where men and women had lived, were turned into deer forests and grouse moors, with a tenth of the outcry and far more injustice towards men than accompanied the Commonwealth's famous New Forest appropriations. A dreadful famine came to aid the cause of the peasant clearers in Ireland. It became easier to throw down a cottage while its inmates were weakened by hunger than to build a new one. 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